

sisted the ordinary remedies. The result was extremely satisfactory. The same surgeon relates a second case of extensive abscess of the shoulder, where an injection of iodine caused severe hemorrhage. This was arrested by throwing into the sac a lotion composed of seven ounces of water and ten drops of the perchloride.

In gonorrhœa and leucorrhœa, injections of the perchloride have been tried with success in weak and lymphatic subjects, the proportion of the perchloride being twenty drops to three ounces and a half of water.

MEDICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

11. *Hydrochlorate of Ammonia in Neuralgia*.—Mr. H. C. BRENCHLEY, Surgeon to the Brighton Dispensary, relates (*Lancet*, Oct. 16, 1858) the following case to illustrate the efficacy of hydrochlorate of ammonia in neuralgia.

A young man, aged 23, unmarried, healthy, and without any other apparent complaint, had long suffered from very severe attacks of neuralgia of the face, coming on at intervals of about one month, and lasting from two or three days to a week. It sometimes came on on one side of the face, and at other times on the other side. During one of these attacks I saw him, and ordered him quinine and arsenic, which put an end to the attack for the time. After the lapse of a month or six weeks, he had a second attack, which was cured in the same way. A third attack, however, came on after a shorter interval. This time the quinine and arsenic failed to relieve him. On the third day, when I saw him, he was in great agony, propped up in bed, and unable to do anything from the severity of the pain. The left side of his face was swollen, flushed, and hot, the temperature considerably higher than on the right side; the heat, also, of the inside of the mouth was so great that I expected I should find matter forming from decayed teeth; but, on examination, I failed to do so.

I now tried the much-vaunted remedy—the valerianate of ammonia, but without any effect. The usual remedies having failed, I gave him the hydrochlorate of ammonia, in doses of half a drachm every hour, in camphor mixture. I saw him three hours after he had commenced this treatment, and found he had been much relieved after taking the second dose; and, having taken the third dose, he was almost free from pain, and begged to be allowed to continue the remedy. The heat and flushing of the face had subsided, and the temperature of the mouth considerably reduced, feeling quite cool after the burning heat of its former state. He went on for three or four days with the remedy, in doses of fifteen grains, three times a day, although there was no return of pain. Three months have now elapsed, and he has had no relapse.

The *modus operandi* of this medicine is not very clear; but whatever other specific virtues it possesses for the cure of neuralgia, in this particular case it evidently acted as an indirect sedative by lessening the arterial action; for the first and most striking effect of the medicine was the rapid lowering of the temperature of the mouth and face. From further observation, I have found that this remedy is most useful in those cases of neuralgia which are attended with heat and swelling.

12. *Administration of Medicines in a State of Vapour*.—The treatment of the diseases of certain parts of the body sometimes presents difficulties from the difficulty of applying topical remedies to them. Such are the rima glottidis the mucous membrane lining the bronchial tubes; the Eustachian tube; the membrane lining the frontal sinuses, and the antrum maxillare. Dr. NEVINS in a paper recently read before the Liverpool Medical Society, states that he has beneficially applied medicinal agents to these parts, in the state of vapour; and he relates the following cures illustrative of this principle:—

RIMA GLOTTIDIS.—A healthy young woman came under my care with *complete*

loss of voice, which had continued for nearly twelve months. She attributed it to frequent colds, taken in answering the front door, which opened towards the east. She had, at first, been treated by a medical man of celebrity and skill, and all acute symptoms had long disappeared, and the loss of voice was all that remained—but she could barely speak above a whisper. Iodine and other remedies had been employed without avail, and the patient for many months had used no means at all for the restoration of her voice.

It appeared to me, that the aphonia was probably due to chronic thickening of the chordæ vocales, and that if local stimulants and some mild mercurial could be applied, benefit might be anticipated. I therefore availed myself of a method for attaining this object, with which I had become casually acquainted whilst translating Rousseau's work on the "Art of Prescribing."¹ He there describes some "mercurial cigarettes," which appeared exactly calculated to accomplish the object in view. I therefore directed the patient to smoke one of these cigarettes twice a day, and instructed her, instead of blowing the smoke at once from her mouth, to breathe gently inwards, so that it might pass through her windpipe once in breathing it in, and a second time in breathing it out again. At first, the smoke occasioned a slight disposition to cough, but the larynx soon became accustomed to the stimulant, and in a day or two she smoked them without difficulty. In a short time improvement was evident, and in about a month her voice was restored nearly to its natural power, and it continued healthy to the time when I lost sight of her, which was several months after her recovery.

I have had one or two similar cases in which the like benefit has been derived; and I conceive, that chronic ulceration of the larynx or vocal organs would be advantageously treated in a similar manner, though I am not able to speak with equal confidence on this point, not having had the opportunity of submitting the plan to the test of experience.

FRONTAL SINUSES.—A middle-aged gentleman had suffered for many months from pain in the frontal sinuses, and a very offensive discharge in the nose, which destroyed his comfort, by the odour constantly rendering his food unpalatable, and exciting notice, as he fancied, when he was in company. He had used lotions and injections into the nose without avail, previous to consulting me. I directed him to use the same cigarettes, but instead of inhaling the smoke, to force it into his nose when closed by the fingers, and in the course of three or four weeks the discharge and pain had ceased, and he discontinued their employment.

NASAL POLYPUS.—A gentleman who had suffered from this disease for some time, and had had one polypus removed in London, and another by myself, was recommended to make trial of the cigarettes when he felt the early symptoms of the returning disease. He used them occasionally in their simple condition, blowing the smoke through his nostrils instead of direct from his mouth, and the symptoms disappeared, and the nose returned to its open state. He is an habitual smoker, and has latterly had tobacco made into cigarettes, by being rolled up in paper prepared with the mercurial solution. He has not required any further operation for some time, as he resorts to this remedy when his nose becomes uneasy, and it has hitherto been successful in restoring him to comfort.

EUSTACHIAN TUBE.—A patient suffered from deafness, which was not due to obstruction of the outer ear by wax, nor was there any evidence of inflammatory action to account for it. He had not recently laboured under cold, and the condition of the throat was not sufficiently disordered to explain the loss of hearing. He stated, however, that on one occasion he was sneezing, and for a moment, he regained his hearing distinctly, but lost it again almost immediately. This circumstance appeared to give the clue to the nature of his disease, which probably arose from an obstructed Eustachian tube. The difficulty and uncertainty of passing the Eustachian bougie are so great, that I preferred having recourse to the remedial effects of the stimulating vapour, and accordingly directed the patient to smoke the cigarettes; but in this instance the instruction was given to swallow the smoke, and endeavor at the same time to make the ears

¹ This translation with notes has been published by Bailliere, Regent Street, London, under the title of "The Prescriber's Complete Hand Book. 24mo. 1852."

crack. In his early attempts he did not always succeed, but he soon acquired sufficient skill to force the smoke into both ears until he felt them distended, and his deafness was cured after using the cigarettes about a fortnight. A case is now under treatment in the same way, in which the patient has been deaf for above seven years, and the improvement is slow. He has been using the cigarettes for about six weeks, and even now it is too early to pronounce the case a successful one; but his hearing is improving, whilst all previous treatment had been entirely without benefit.

GENERAL LINING MEMBRANE OF THE BRONCHIAL TUBES.—The method of applying astringents and opiates to the surface of the bronchial membrane, by inhaling very finely powdered alum and opium, was lately brought before the Society by Mr. Bickerton, who exhibited his ingenious contrivance for effecting this object, and mentioned cases illustrative of its benefit. The method was the same in principle as that illustrated in the foregoing remarks; and although the title of this paper, "On the Internal Employment of Medicines in a State of Vapour," will not apply perfectly to their employment in the state merely of very fine powder, yet the beneficial results in his cases were so directly traceable to the topical application of the remedies, by means of the respiration, that I shall be pardoned for adducing his results in support of the method now under our notice.

In Mr. Bickerton's cases, his object was to apply a local astringent for the purpose of checking profuse secretion from the bronchial membrane, and the result corresponded with his expectations, and the cough and expectoration were essentially diminished. With a design in some respects similar, I have employed the mercurial cigarettes for the purpose of acting upon the whole bronchial membrane, in a case of long-standing spasmodic asthma. In this case, the occurrence of damp weather was almost always productive of an attack, and it seemed probable, that if the irritability of the bronchial surface could be diminished, the attacks might be reduced in frequency; the patient was, therefore, desired to smoke the cigarettes, which she learned to make for herself, and they proved so far successful, that when she felt an attack of difficult breathing coming on, she had recourse to them, and on several occasions the threatening symptoms went off, and no attack of spasmodic asthma was experienced. I do not, however, venture to lay too much stress upon this case, as she has had some severe attacks, notwithstanding the smoking, and because other means of a general tonic character, such as bathing and exercise were employed at the same time. Notwithstanding all reasonable deductions, on these grounds I am still persuaded, that the remedy has been of service in lessening the irritability of the bronchial membrane.—*Liverpool Med.-Chirurg. Journ.*, Jan. 1859.

[The method of making the mercurial cigarettes will be found described in the department of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, in the present No., p. 539.]

13. Inhalation of Carbonic Acid in Granular Pharyngitis. By Dr. WILHELMIN.—The therapeutical application of the inhalation of carbonic acid has been made only in late years and principally in Germany. Bischoff and Ennemoser have made some experiments with carbonic acid, and have come to the conclusion, that when the gas is not breathed pure, nor for too long a time, it produces no unpleasant effects; but, on the contrary, that the respiration of the patients becomes more easy, and the expectoration more abundant. Germany possesses, in the present day, a great number of establishments where the inhalation of carbonic acid, more or less mixed with air or steam, is methodically practised. The gas is collected by means of an apparatus to which a caoutchouc tube is adapted, permitting the gas to be directed into the interior of the mouth, on the neck, or on any other part. At Pyrmont, a bell-glass has been placed over the spring from which the gas is disengaged, and three tubes carry away the carbonic acid. At Franzensbad a large basin has been constructed, and the patients descend into it by several steps, at the bottom of which the gas is disengaged. The superior stratum of air contains fifteen per cent. of carbonic acid; and in proportion as the patients are accustomed to this atmosphere, they approach nearer to the orifice from which the gas escapes.

The principal effect of the use of this gas, according to the German physi-